

In order to take some pictures of these nests I again went out to Butler's Lake on the eighth of July. I spent three hours in taking pictures and in finding new nests. Only a few of the pictures were good, because of the high wind that was blowing and shaking the nests. On this day two more Black Tern nests, with two eggs and two young, were found in the same part of the lake that those on July 2 were found. One of the young swam out of sight before I could focus my camera. Another Florida Gallinule nest was found with four pipped eggs and some shell chips, from which I suppose others had hatched and had already taken to water. Of the Least Bittern, four were located. One had five eggs, two held four eggs each, and a fourth had four broken eggs. Two Yellow-headed Blackbird nests with three eggs each, one with one egg, and another with four well grown young were seen; also one Red-winged Blackbird's with four young. In a very open situation between two beds of reeds my first Coot nest was discovered containing three eggs.

I consider Butler's Lake to be an oasis of water birds in Lake County. The whole county is thoroughly hunted fall and spring, therefore the wealth of bird life is due wholly to protection and not especially to food supply, for there are over a hundred lakes in Lake County similar in situation and adaptability for water birds to Butler's Lake.

Ravinia, Illinois.

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## CARDINALS IN NORTHEASTERN IOWA.

BY MARY E. HATCH, M'GREGOR, IOWA.

The first cardinal seen in this part of the country, so far as I know—at least the first to be recorded, was on December 11, 1906. It appeared in the yard adjoining the one where we lived, in the north end of this little bluff bordered town.

The ground was well covered with snow; so it is not hard to imagine my surprise and delight, upon looking out of my kitchen window, in seeing this beautiful dash of red against the white background. And what was he doing? Feeding

with English sparrows! A true aristocrat at the table of a plebeian.

A year or so passed and no further sight of a cardinal. Then we began to see them occasionally. Soon they were more in evidence, and now (1915), they are comparatively common. I have them every winter feeding at my table; and at least twenty other people in town have them as well. They are not the same ones, for once, when we had a pair here, we telephoned to a friend at the other end of the town, who had a bird table, too, to see if she happened at that moment to have any. She reported three.

Like robins, cardinals prefer to build near houses. One built in an arbor this spring and right in the path leading to the house, where many were coming and going.

One of our bird lovers reported the following delightful experience this spring: She was climbing one of the nearby wooded bluffs, and came upon a cardinal family. The old birds were instructing the fledglings. It was not quite clear what the male was at that moment trying to teach; but probably it was a lesson in voice culture. All were on the ground, while the teacher was whistling a low sweet melody. His head was lowered to the ground, and all the little ones were imitating this pose.

Cardinals winter well in this locality and come out in the spring in good condition. They sleep mostly within close branches of evergreen trees. Corn is their favorite food, though they will eat almost anything that other birds will. They can crack a kernel of corn as easily as a squirrel does a nut.

We hope the cardinal grosbeaks have come to stay; and mean to do everything in our power to make them know how welcome they are.

We have a great many birds here both winter and summer. Conditions are favorable. We have the grand old Mississippi River and its tributaries to furnish water; we have the surrounding tree-covered bluffs. Then we have a people here who appreciate the worth of birds, giving them food, shelter and protection.